



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Although legislation will be necessary to divest the Government of title to the nearly 6,000 acres of the Parker River Waterfowl Refuge in eastern Massachusetts which will be turned back to the former owners on instructions of Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug, that part of the area will not be operated hereafter as a refuge, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today,

The slightly over 6,000 acres which will be retained in the refuge, Mr. Day said, include the tidal salt marshes of most immediate benefit to the duck population which the refuge was created to protect.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, he said, plans to develop the area which is being kept to make it a real asset to neighboring Massachusetts communities.

"Plum Island, for instance," he said, "includes a stretch of ocean sand beach which the Service will improve and where it will develop a community recreation center. We plan to put in facilities there to make it useful.

"Clamming in the tidal flats is one of the important local industries. But the clam population has dropped during the war. We will send one of our scientists there to confer with the local clam fishermen and with State officials in an attempt to bring that population back and increase clam output."

Mr. Day said that the Service plans to make the refuge attractive also to Canadian geese, which formerly stopped in the area but in recent years have passed it by.

"Although the refuge is primarily for ducks, by planting food crops, we think that we can reestablish it as a stopping place for Canadian geese and increase goose hunting along the Massachusetts coast."